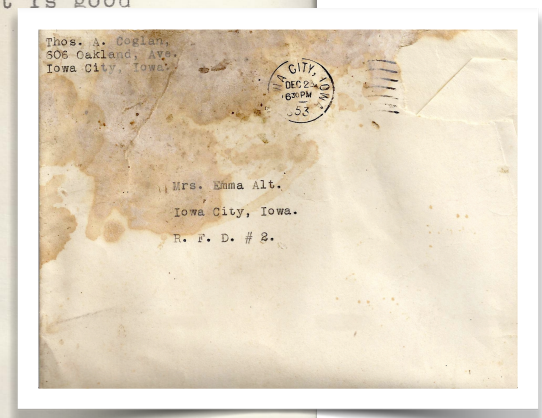
Letter from Thomas Coglan to Emma Alt written on the inside of a Christmas card sent in 1953

Well I have just received and read your Cristmas Card and what a flood of memories it did bring back, One thing that will always stand out in my memory, was the night in that little old school house when we had the Literary meetings there, You and Dave Dennison sang that old song Sweet Jenny the Flower of Kildare, I can almost hear Mike Doyle and I when we would go to bed at night and I would sing like you did or as near to it as I could and Mike would surely imitate Dave Dennison, How we would make that old house ring. Then we had the North Liberty string Band at the right was Sherm Arnold with his Violin then Jim Murphy with the Harmonica next was Lee Myers with the tryangle then Bert Northup with the rattle bones and Guy Ramsey with his Banjo then Dave Dennison with the Tambourine they sure done the best they could, At that time Ross Hackett was President. I remember that one night there was some one kept count of the number that was there and they counted two hundred if that was true they must have been thick in that little old school house, And now very few remain that was there at that time. Then when the show was over we would go over to Harry Whites Store and the tobacco smoke was so thick that you could hardly tell who the people was that were sitting around on the barrels and boxes, Then each night there would be a question up for discussion and I Remember that Arthur Alt was considered the very best in that line and I always thought he believed it to. I can also remember what a long string of girls there was about our age , And I dont think there is any one of them left. I can also remember that Mae Statler was always very good in what ever she tried to do, but she died in 1889 in California, Well I suppose that I Could go on all afternoon, telling about those old times, But of course You know all about them as well as I, So wishing you all that is good

I am yours very truly,

Thos. A. Coglan.